

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace the second full paragraph on page 76 with the following amended paragraph:

The mutant proteins of the present invention exhibit improved biological activity as well as extended half-life. Further, increased activity observed with the truncated proteins of the present invention may be due to elimination of basic residues and/or the lowering of the protein's isoelectric point. Biological activity and improved refolding can be enhanced when the modified proteins of the present invention are combined with the modifications described in co-pending applications USSN 09/374,958 [~~Atty Docket No. STK-076~~, filed on August 16, 1999], now U.S. Patent 6,677,432 and USSN 09/374,936 [~~Atty Docket No. STK-077~~, filed on August 16, 1999], now U.S. Patent 6,846,906, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference.